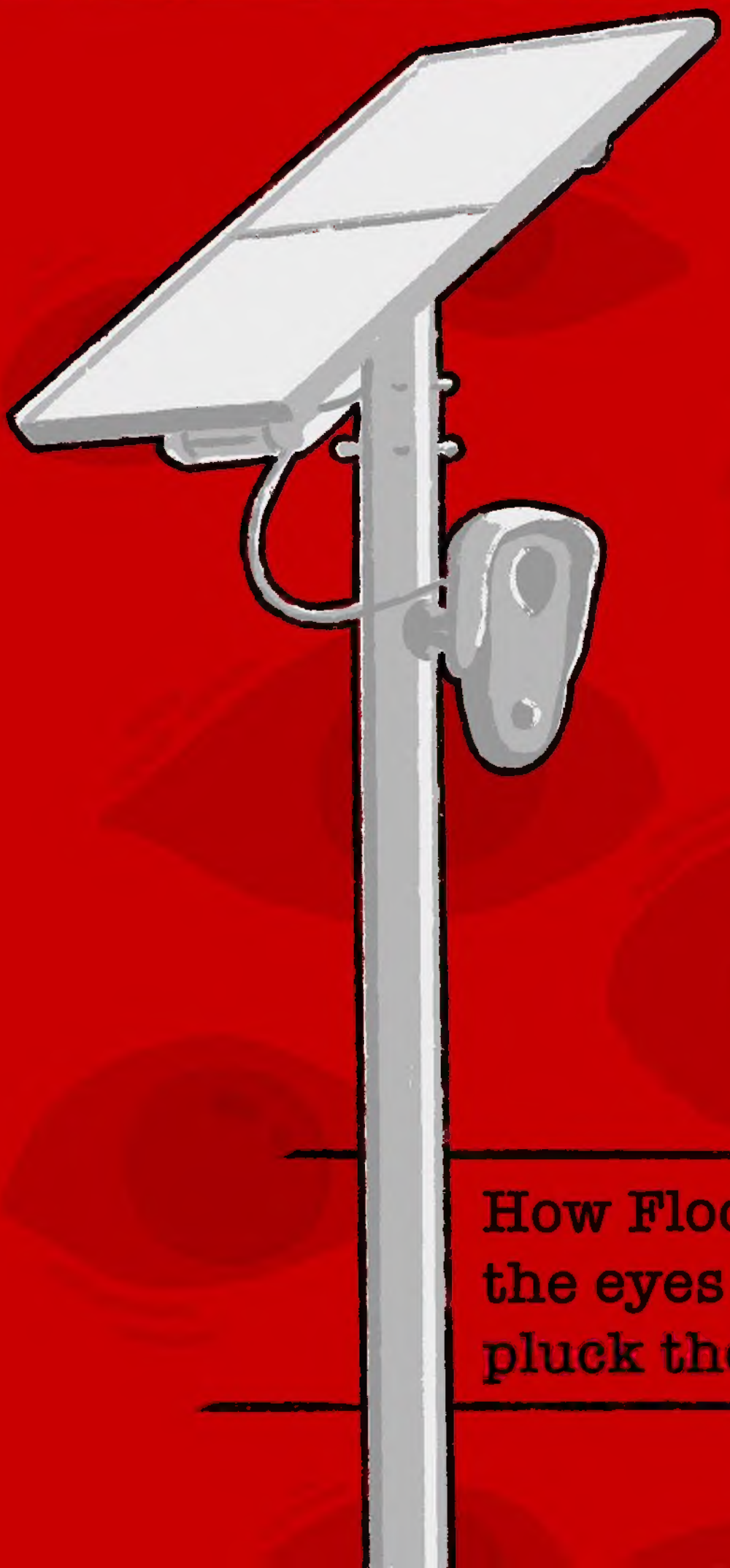
FLOCK CAMERAS



How Flock Safety has become the eyes of the state & how to pluck them out

What is Flock Safety?

Flock Safety is a mass surveillance technology company based out of Atlanta, Georgia, USA and founded in 2017 by Garrett Langley, Matt Feury and Paige Todd. Flock Safety manufactures and operates Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) cameras, gunfire locators, video security systems, drones and integrated surveillance software. Not only does Flock Safety operate under contract with law enforcement agencies but also businesses and neighborhood HOAs.

According to flocksafety/.com, Flock Safety's ALPR cameras read over 20 Billion license plates per months. They also claim to operate in 49 US states, including over 5000 communities and over 4,800 law enforcement agencies. Flock Safety has partnered with Palantir, which provides intelligence for the CIA, DoD and DHS, and Ring, to expand the state's mass surveillance apparatus.

How do Flock ALPRs work?

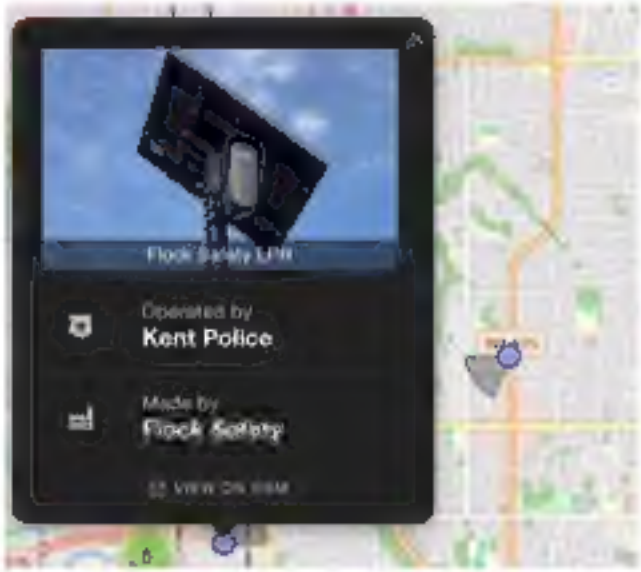
"Flock's most popular products, the Falcon and Sparrow, are cameras which monitor traffic and photograph the rear of all passing vehicles. Their software uses computer vision to read the vehicle's license plates and identify other distinguishing visual characteristics, sending that information to a central server via cellular network. Flock's servers then log these identifying data, with the time and location of the scan, in a searchable database, and compare all results with the National Crime Information Center, as well as state and local police watchlists of cars that are reported stolen or otherwise of interest to the police, instantly alerting nearby officers upon a match."
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flock_Safety

Flock Safety claims that with the "Vehicle Fingerprint" AI powered search tool, users can identify vehicles by make, model, color, dents, paint scratches and bumper stickers. License plates are not even needed for tracking with the ALPR cameras.

How to find Flock Cameras in your community

One great resource for tracking Flock camera locations is deflock.org, an open-source project mapping license plate readers. Users can report ALPR locations and view an interactive map of all reported camera locations.
Deflock has mapped over 78,000 LPRs across the US.

Users can select a camera location marker to see who is operating the ALPR and who the camera is made by.
For cameras without an identified operator, sometimes camera poles will have identifying stickers or markers with the owner/operator name.



When viewed on OSM, camera location coordinates, camera mount type, camera type, direction, manufacturer and owner information may be available.

Another good resource for tracking Flock cameras, and finding police departments which have enabled their Flock Transparency Portals, is eyesonflock.com

Flock ALPR cameras are fairly easy to identify if you know what to look for. They are often mounted on designated, black, metal poles which are fitted with solar panels above the camera. Sometimes Flock cameras are mounted on street signs, light poles or other roadway infrastructure next to streets, highway/freeway on and off ramps and state borders. You can also find Flock cameras in locations such as the parking lots of Lowe's and Home Depot.

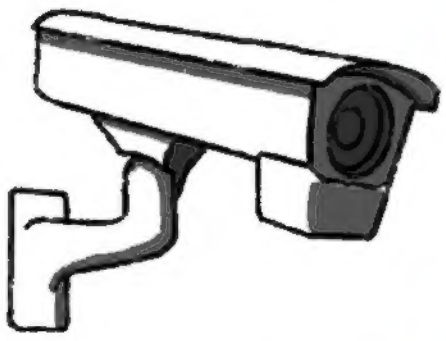
How to Identify Flock Cameras

The camera housing for the fixed Flock cameras are small, black and oval shaped. The Flock logo appears to show a tree branch and leaf.
Flock Safety systems are motion sensor activated and capture an image when triggered.
These cameras are directional however sometimes they will be mounted in pairs to cover multiple directions.

Types of ALPRs

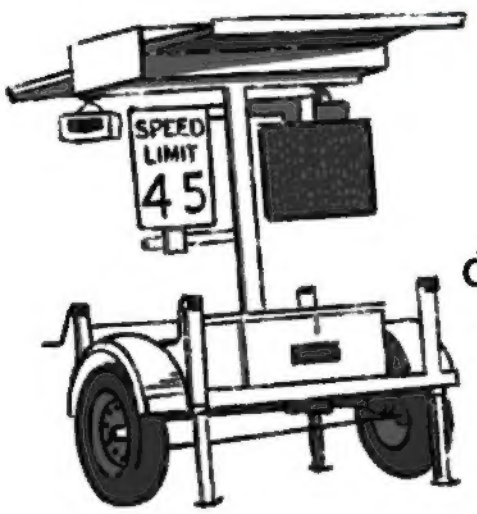
Our primary focus has been on Flock Safety and their fixed ALPR cameras however there are many types of ALPRs and multiple companies which manufacture them.

ALPR cameras come in many forms depending on their location and specific purpose. Here are a few examples:



Fixed/Stationary Cameras

Fixed/Stationary APLR cameras are installed on designated or existing utility poles. These cameras are often installed along roadways and in conjunction with red-light and speed enforcement systems.

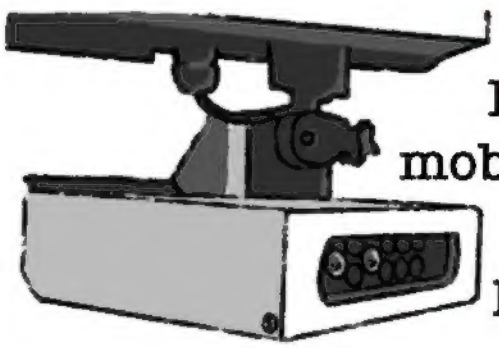


ALPR Trailers

Some speed/signage trailers are designed to conceal ALPR cameras.

"The DEA has purchased these systems in the past, disguised as speed enforcement trailers, in order to track vehicles in areas along the U.S.-Mexico border. Trailers, or vehicles equipped with ALPR, have also been parked by police near gun shows and political rallies."

sls.eff.org/technologies/automated-license-plate-readers-alprs



Mobile ALPRs

Most police departments in large US cities utilize the mobile ALPRs which are mounted on police vehicles next to the light bar or built into the grille. In cities with populations of 100,000 or more, 75 percent of police departments use ALPR systems.

Covert/Hidden ALPRs

Covert ALPRs can often be found along border highways. They are often operated by CBP or the DEA. They are disguised as construction barrels.

"If a covert ALPR has a Motorola Solutions camera (formerly Vigilant Solutions) inside, it's likely a CBP system. If it has a Selex ES camera inside, then it is likely a DEA camera."

www.eff.org/deeplinks/2025/11/how-identify-automated-license-plate-readers-us-mexico-border

Flock: The Eyes of the State

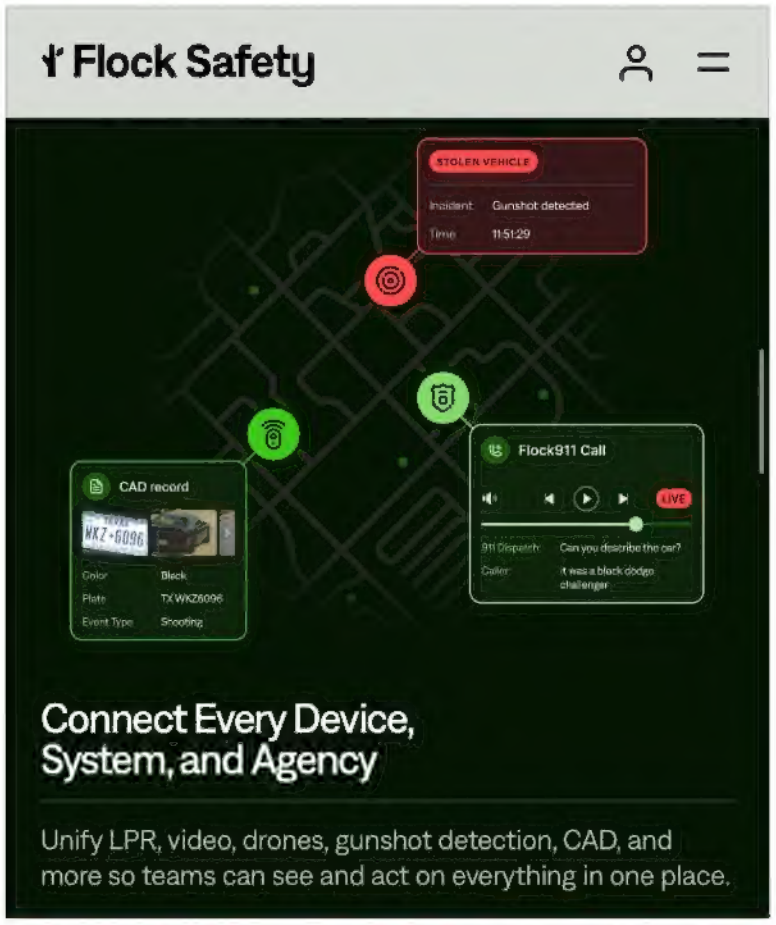
"ALPRs collect license plate numbers and location data along with the exact date and time the license plate was encountered. Some systems are able to capture make and model of the vehicle. They can collect thousands of plates per minute. One vendor brags that its dataset includes more than 6.5 billion scans and grows at a rate of 120-million data points each month.

When combined, ALPR data can reveal the direction and speed a person traveled through triangulation. In aggregate over time, the data can reveal a vehicle's historical travel. With algorithms applied to the data, the systems can reveal regular travel patterns and predict where a driver may be in the future. The data also reveal all visitors to a particular location. The data generally does not include the driver's name. However, law enforcement officers can use other databases to connect individual names with their license plate numbers.

In addition to capturing license plate data, the photographs can reveal images of the vehicle, the vehicle's drivers and passengers, as well as its immediate surroundings —and even people getting in and out of a vehicle. Some products create 'vehicle fingerprints' that also include information such as the vehicle's color, make, model, physical damage, and bumper stickers."

sls.eff.org/technologies/automated-license-plate-readers-alprs

The Eyes of the Police


Flock Safety
STOLEN VEHICLE
Incident Gunshot detected
Time 11:51:29
CAD record
Color Black
Plate TX WKZ6096
Event Type Shooting
Flock911 Call
LIVE
911 Dispatch Can you describe the car?
Caller It was a black dodge challenger
Connect Every Device, System, and Agency
Unify LPR, video, drones, gunshot detection, CAD, and more so teams can see and act on everything in one place.

The data captured by Flock ALPR cameras are stored for at least 30 days in a database. Law enforcement agencies which have purchased the FlockOS subscription (a real time crime center platform) can dump and store this data to create "hot lists" of vehicles of interest.

As reported by Range Media, law enforcement can, "search for specific plates, which may be suspects in open cases, or general searches of specific cameras near crime locations to see if any case-relevant vehicles have appeared in the database. In order to make a search, the person searching has to provide the system with a reason they need the information."

As should be expected, local and state police departments have used Flock cameras to continue harassing, intimidating and terrorizing our communities.

- More than 80 law enforcement agencies used language perpetuating harmful stereotypes against Romani people when searching the nationwide Flock Safety ALPR network
- A Texas cop used Flock's database to search nationwide for a woman for a "death investigation." The search inquiry stated, "had an abortion, search for female."
- Nearly 4000 agencies utilized Flock for searches related to protest activities. More than 12 million searches were logged between December 2024 & October 2025
- A Kansas police chief used Flock license plate cameras 164 times to stalk ex-girlfriend
- Local police have utilized Flock's database on behalf of ICE, even in departments which do not have 287g Agreements with ICE
- Flock cameras have misidentified individuals leading to detainment and abuse of community members.

THE EYES OF ICE

Flock Safety claims that they don't work with ICE.

THIS IS A LIE

"Data from a license plate-scanning tool that is primarily marketed as a surveillance solution for small towns to combat crimes like car jackings or finding missing people is being used by ICE, according to data reviewed by 404 Media. Local police around the country are performing lookups in Flock's AI-powered automatic license plate reader (ALPR) system for "immigration" related searches and as part of other ICE investigations, giving federal law enforcement side-door access to a tool that it currently does not have a formal contract for."

Researchers shared a "massive trove of [Flock Safety] lookup data" with 404 Media which, "shows more than 4,000 nation and statewide lookups by local and state police done either at the behest of the federal government or as an "informal" favor to federal law enforcement, or with a potential immigration focus."

www.404media.co/ice-taps-into-nationwide-ai-enabled-camera-network-data-shows
www.muckrock.com/foi/danville-7714/foia-request-alpr-audit-186112

While Flock Safety has attempted to pacify the public's backlash by insisting that they do not have any official partnerships with DHS, their ALPR systems continue to be used by ICE to terrorize our communities. The denial of any partnership is simply a deflection from the real harm that mass surveillance does to the people who it claims to protect.

Community Defense

Most Flock ALPR cameras are mounted onto existing infrastructure or designated poles with metal banding straps. These can be cut with tin snips. Duckbilled snips would probably work best.

The lense is covered with a small glass pane. In order to dismantle the lense, the glass must be smashed first and then the lense can be smashed underneath.

Covering the lense with paint, duct tape or stickers can temporarily obstruct the camera view. Matte paint will be most opaque.

"Flocks are unidirectional, meaning they're vulnerable from behind, but are often paired with another flock in the opposite direction (common on busy streets or highways), or with nearby dome cameras (especially in dense urban settings). Be mindful about your approach. Scout both the camera and the entry and exit route, from the moment you leave your house to the moment you return. Make sure that you aren't seen changing clothes or entering/exiting a vehicle on a camera. Flock cameras are outfitted with a taoglass GPS module, meaning they do have geolocation technology on-board. This mean the company can potentially access where components were brought to or ended up even after being damaged or disassembled."

https://saguaros.noblogs.org/files/2025/05/birdsofafeather_screen-1.pdf